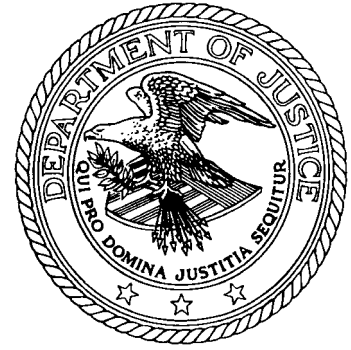


NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - August 5, 2005

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today the felony arraignment of Oscar Antonio Ortiz, a United States Border Patrol Agent, on a complaint charging him with alien smuggling and making a false claim of United States citizenship.

As detailed in the complaint, agents and officers of the North County Regional Gang Task Force (hereinafter, "NCRGTF"), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, intercepted the wire communications of Ortiz and other individuals suspected of alien smuggling from April 15, 2005, through June 6, 2005. Over the course of these wire interceptions, Ortiz, a U.S. Border Patrol Agent assigned to the El Cajon Border Patrol Station, was intercepted on many occasions conspiring with others to smuggle illegal aliens into the United States through the agent's area of operations at the international border east of the Tecate Port of Entry, within the Southern District of California.

The complaint also alleges that Ortiz's October 30, 2001 application for a position with the U.S. Border Patrol contains a false claim that Ortiz is a United States citizen, born in Chicago, Illinois. Ortiz

submitted a copy of a birth certificate to the Department of Justice to support his claim of United States citizenship. However, a records check for the birth certificate reveals that it belongs to another person. Further records checks reveal that Ortiz was born in, and is a citizen of, Mexico.

United States Attorney Lam said, "Fighting corruption at the border ranks among our highest priorities, because corruption weakens our national security and undermines the efforts of the many law enforcement officers who faithfully execute their duties."

"Any agent who defies the Border Patrol's motto of 'Honor First' and chooses to violate the trust of the citizens they swore to protect will be held accountable, " said David V. Aguilar, National Chief of the Border Patrol. "There is no place in the Border Patrol for behavior that tarnishes and discredits the badge we proudly wear."

Ortiz was arrested on August 4, 2005, in Escondido, California. The Honorable Anthony J. Battaglia, United States Magistrate Judge, at the United States Courthouse in San Diego arraigned Ortiz on the charges this morning. Ortiz' next scheduled court appearance is for a detention hearing on August 18, 2005, at 1:30 p.m. before Judge Battaglia.

DEFENDANT

Oscar Antonio Ortiz
San Diego, California

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Count One: False Claim to U.S. Citizenship, Title 18, U.S.C., Section 911

Count Two: Conspiracy to Bring in Aliens, Title 8, U.S.C., Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(I) and (v)(1)

AGENCIES

North County Regional Gang Task Force
United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement
San Diego Sheriff's Office
Escondido Police Department
Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General

A complaint is not evidence that the defendant committed the crimes charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.